

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 9 AUG 51

SUBJECT Production at Lignose Plant in
 Schoenebeck, Saxony

NO. OF PAGES 2

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1. The so-called Lignose plant in Schoenebeck, Saxony, is one of the Soviet Zone's major producers of commercial-type explosives. The plant employs about 4200 persons of whom about 400 to 500 are white collar workers. Most of the production goes to the USSR or to Vismut A.G. The plant is under the strict supervision of the Soviet Control Commission. Every two weeks a Soviet inspection team, headed by a major, checks the records and stocks. The plant is headed by one Paul Hemprecht, a Communist from Halle, who is assisted by an engineer named Luther, as business manager, and another engineer, Richard Liebe, as production manager.

Production

2. The plant produces various types of commercial explosives. About 500 workers in one section produce some 12 tons of donarite monthly; in another section 200 workers on two shifts produce five tons of "Chloradit" per month. Two hundred and fifty workers on two shifts produce a product called TRI (probably trinitrotoluene) in unknown quantities. Another section produces enough nitroglycerin per week to fill one railroad tank car. This section is scheduled to double its production. The bulk of their output is used locally for the production of about 30 tons of blasting gelatine per month, most of which goes to Vismut. The nitroglycerin not used locally is loaded on special rail tank cars and removed from the plant to an unknown destination. Some 80 workers, in two shifts, produce about 30,000 detonators per shift (1.5 million monthly), mostly for the USSR and Vismut. Considerable quantities of this product are stored locally in fireproof dumps. Another section produces percussion caps chiefly of the type used in hunting rifles, small bore arms (6 millimeter) and slaughterhouse cartridges (4.5 and 5 millimeter). All but the latter go to the Soviet Union. Finally, the plant produces fuses and primacord. This section works according to the Stakhanov system in brigades of 10 men. The number of workers and their production is unknown.

Workers' Organization

About 800 of the workers in the plant belong to the SED. The SED Betriebsgruppe has six full-time employees at the plant. Its chief is Werner Modler, age about 34. His deputy is Werner Thalheim, age about 28, a convinced Com-

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Director of Central Intelligence to the
For Release 2001/02/06 : CIA
Next Review Date: 2008

Approved For Release 2001/02/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R007900190005-4

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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munist. The Betriebsgewerkschaftsleitung has four full-time employees, headed by a 22-year old ex-BDM (Bund Deutscher Mädel) girl, Emi Rittweger.

Security

4. The plant is guarded by a platoon of 45 policemen under the command of Polizeirat Frauenrath. His three section chiefs are Hauptwachtmeister Klatt, Hauptwachtmeister Karl Schaedlich and Oberwachtmeister Gerhard Neumann. Only Klatt is a rabid Communist; the two others are harmless. In addition to the regular guards there is an alert unit (Bereitschaft) of 40 men stationed at the plant and a criminal police detail of three men. The latter work under cover in the plant and are rotated as soon as detected. Every employee is searched upon leaving the plant. The factory is surrounded by a double row of wire, guarded by nine watchtowers equipped with searchlights.

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